



December Monthly Activity Report

In December, the Georgia SRTS Resource Center project team worked with five Partners and the surrounding communities on Travel Plans. Meetings that included walk audits and planning charettes were held in each community. The team also continued marketing initiatives in preparation for 2012 Outreach efforts continued, as the staff worked to expand relationships with current and prospective partners; three new schools became Partners in December and one new Friend Partner.

School Outreach Coordinator Activity Highlights

As of December 31st, the Outreach team had secured 391 schools as Partners and brought in 236 Friends of the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center. In December, the team had 64 meetings with partners and community stakeholders and facilitated five on-going Travel Plans.

Coastal Georgia (Patti Sistrunk, SOC)

Camden Middle School (Camden County, New Partner)

Camden Middle School is in Kingsland in Camden County. The principal, Mr. Durham, met with SOC Patti Sistrunk and Safe Kids Kingsland (Friend) Coordinator, Charles Roney, on November 30th. The principal faxed in the partner form and officially partnered in December. The Camden County and City of Kingsland Safe Routes to School network of schools and community stakeholders continues to grow; greater interest is anticipated following a scheduled National Course workshop in January at Camden Middle School. The school has a significant walking population since the school board had to eliminate busing within one and a half miles of the school due to budget cuts. The National Course will focus on Camden Middle but provide resources and skills for other schools in the county and surrounding area to pursue walk audits and other Safe Routes strategies.

Safe Kids Savannah (Chatham County, Friend)

Safe Kids Savannah continues to be a valuable Friend for Safe Routes to School in Chatham County with education support and walk and bicycle to school day event support. SOC Patti Sistrunk serves on the Safe Kids Board as the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Chairperson. On December 16th, Patti met with Safe Kids coordinator, Alison Gramza, to discuss the future of Safe Kids Savannah since recent budget cuts forced the Chatham County Health Department to cut the program at the end of October. Memorial Hospital became the new sponsoring agency in December. The Coastal Region will continue to partner with the Safe Kids Savannah Coalition to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety, and injury prevention measures, including Georgia Walk to School Day in March.

South Georgia (Nykia Burke, SOC)

Quitman County K-12 (Quitman County, New Partner)

Quitman County K-12 partnered with the Resource Center during December. With a dynamic superintendent and fully supportive principals, SOC Nykia Burke is excited to begin assisting with the development of SRTS programs at the three schools on this centralized campus. Approximately one third of students live within a one-mile radius of the central campus. However, due to substantial infrastructure barriers, only five students currently walk or bike to school regularly. Many students who live within one-quarter of a mile are bussed or driven to school due to lack of sidewalks. Quitman County's Superintendent energetically supports the movement to encourage more students to walk and/or bike to school and is dedicated to the growth of Safe Routes within the

county. SOC Nykia will continue to coordinate efforts with the River Valley Regional Commission and will assist with the RVRC's development of a comprehensive SRTS travel plan for the schools.

Central Georgia (Sandie Parker, SOC)

Gray Elementary School, Jones County (Silver-level Partner)

Gray Elementary School was chosen to participate in Travel Plan development through the I Resource Center and Toole Design Group. Outreach coordinator, Sandie Parker, initially met with Principal, Lori Poythress, Assistant Principal, Dena Smith, and Superintendent Matthews to discuss the travel plan process and benefits. On December 13th, Sandie participated in meeting two along with Toole Design Group. In attendance were Principal Lori Poythress, Assistant Principal Dena Smith, Physical Education teacher Angela Watts, County Commissioner Mike Underwood, PTO President Shannon Keith, Wendy Vaughn Jones County Transportation, Kelly Roberts Executive Director of Jones County School, and PLAN chairperson Chris Smarr. Gray Elementary has a great foundation of people to implement the travel plan ideas. Mrs. Smarr and Commissioner Underwood worked together on a grant recently awarded to Jones County, which includes connecting Gray Elementary and surrounding neighborhoods through sidewalks. Both individuals had great feedback regarding many of the groups concerns. As the group observed dismissal, great ideas developed for use in the travel plan. The group has committed to meet again on January 19, 2012 for meeting 3.

Red Oak Elementary School, Henry County (Silver-level Partner)

Sandie met to discuss Red Oak Elementary's current Safe Routes to School Program. Principal Neal, Physical Education teacher "Coach G," and State Coordinator, Emmanuella Myrthil, attended the meeting. Coach G. explained how he has used the Pedestrian Safety Education Training he received from the Resource Center during the workshop he attended in October in Macon. He was amazed at the number of children that did not know how to cross a street properly and how many of them crossed without even looking. Principal Neal and Coach G. see the value of the teaching pedestrian safety not only in physical education, but also through the entire school. Principal Neal also exhibited interest in hosting a Safe Routes to School National Course at Red Oak and asking each school in Henry County to attend. The course is tentatively scheduled for January 12th at Red Oak Elementary. In addition, SOC Sandie Parker will be presenting at the next PTO meeting on January 10th.

Henry County Board of Education, Henry County (Friend)

SOC Sandie Parker met with Leslie Cheatwood to discuss upcoming events in Henry County at Red Oak Elementary School. Emmanuella Myrthil also attended the meeting. Sandie asked for Mrs. Cheatwood's assistance in requesting that each elementary and middle school partner in Henry attend at the upcoming National Course at Red Oak Elementary. Mrs. Cheatwood will also assist Sandie in getting county officials to attend. Sandie will present at the next Principals' meeting, scheduled for February 14th.

Metro Atlanta (Nykia Burke, SOC)

Crabapple Crossing Elementary School, Fulton County (Silver Level-Partner)

Crabapple Crossing Elementary School was awarded the Outstanding Partner of the year for 2010-11 in recognition of school leaders' efforts to increase the number of students walking and biking safely to school. This year, school representatives are continuing their efforts and expanding the SRTS program to reach more students. On December 1st, Crabapple Crossing hosted the school's third Walk-to-School Day of the year. Participation increased from the November Walk-to-school Day event, with students, families, and pets bundled up to "Jingle All the Way" to school. Actual jingle bells were provided by the music teacher, and everyone received mini candy canes upon arrival. SOC Nykia will continue to assist Crabapple's champion with planning for multiple walk-to-school day events next term.



Pittsburgh Community/SRTS Development Meeting

Nykia also met with representatives of the GA SRTS National Partnership and Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association to further develop plans for implementing Safe Routes to School in the Pittsburgh and Mechanicsville communities. The committee is working to define goals and identify potential participants in the local communities, to promote a comprehensive approach to Safe Routes. Nykia will work directly with three targeted schools to identify specific bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns, in addition to assisting with the development of programs to improve safety education for students and families. She will also continue to educate new committee members and Friends of the Resource Center about SRTS and the work to integrate efforts throughout the community. Nykia is also utilizing the opportunity to facilitate a National Course for the Pittsburgh community in January.

Woodward Elementary School (DeKalb County, Gold Level Partner)-Travel Plan Meetings 1 and 2

Woodward Elementary School was identified to receive travel plan assistance from the Resource Center. This school is approximately 97% Spanish-speaking with more than 50% of students walking to and from school. It is located in close proximity to Cross Keys High School, in a high pedestrian traffic area. It is also accessed via Buford Highway, which has been ranked as one of the most dangerous roads in the United States. Nykia facilitated two travel plan meetings during December: meeting one re-confirmed the school's commitment and vision, and provided a comprehensive review of the travel plan process. Woodward's SRTS committee was established and included the school's new Principal and Champion, the Assistant Principal, school para-professionals (who assist with both dismissal and Safety Patrol), PTA parents, and a language translator. The committee identified concerns with lack of safe crossings, excessive speeding, sidewalk gaps, lighting, signage, and a need for increased pedestrian and driver safety education. Meeting two provided an opportunity for the SRTS committee, Nykia, and the Toole Design team to observe dismissal and identify infrastructure barriers to safe walking. The group discussed potential long- and short-term solutions, including new opportunities for the school's safety patrol, use of the Resource Center's incentive items (specifically blinkie-lights for increased visibility), incorporation of the Pedestrian Safety Education curriculum, and increased parent participation. The group will review the first travel plan draft at the next meeting, tentatively set for Thursday, January 12th.

Northwest Georgia (Alicia Hatcher, SOC)

Lyerly Elementary (Chattooga County, Bronze-level Partner) - Travel Plan Meetings 1 & 2

SOC Alicia Hatcher worked with Jim Elliot and Lucas Cruse of Toole Design Group, and representatives of Lyerly Elementary during December to complete two meetings of the Travel Plan process. During the first meeting, the group discussed their goals for the Travel Plan, which included more parent involvement, increasing safety and awareness of pedestrians, new sidewalks and crosswalks, and incorporating SRTS into PE classes. The second meeting focused on studying the environment around the school and observing dismissal. The group also discussed barriers and potential solutions. The third meeting is set for Friday, January 13th, when an initial draft of the plan will be presented.

East Side Elementary (Cobb County, Gold-level Partner)

Maria Lewis, the new School Champion for East Side Elementary, met with former School Champion, Susan Leingang, and SOC Alicia Hatcher to discuss the Champion's role. Mrs. Leingang was able to provide insight into what the school has done since becoming a Partner in August 2010. Mrs. Lewis plans to use Frequent Walker cards provided by the Resource Center for regular walkers, as well as hold a Walk to School Day and Bike Rodeo in the Spring. Mrs. Lewis attended the Pedestrian Safety Education training at Kincaid Elementary in October and has passed along the binder to the PE teacher to use in the classroom.

Cycle Therapy (Rome, Friend)

Cycle Therapy, a bicycle shop in Rome, signed on as a new Friend in December. Alicia met with Julie Smith of Cycle Therapy at a *Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia* meeting. Ms. Smith has worked with schools in the past to conduct Bike Rodeos and plans to host others in the future. Cycle Therapy supports the mission of SRTS and store representatives are excited to work with the Resource Center and Rome schools.

Northeast Georgia (Andy Pittman, SOC)

Summerour Middle School Travel Plan Meeting 2 (Gwinnett County, Silver)

On December 6th, SOC Andy Pittman hosted the first full-attendance Travel Plan meeting for Summerour Middle School. Resource Center staff joined members of the Toole Design Team to lead the two hour meeting introducing Summerour's Travel Plan and initiating the process of identifying both infrastructure and non-infrastructure needs in Summerour's community. The meeting was attended by representatives of Sustainable Norcross, the Norcross Police Department, Norcross Department of Transportation, the Planning Department and Summerour's administration. The meeting was a huge success and very interactive, allowing each SRTS team participant to openly discuss their visions, goals and challenges for Summerour's SRTS plan.

Settle's Bridge Elementary School Travel Plan Meeting #2 (Forsyth County, Bronze)

Andy, along with the Toole Design team, was able to host the second Travel Plan meeting for Settle's Bridge Elementary in December. The meeting was attended by representatives from the PTA, school administration, Forsyth County Planning, and the Forsyth County's Sheriff's office. The task force focused primarily on the Education, Encouragement and Enforcement components of their SRTS program, since the school was recently provided with sidewalks from the County (and infrastructure was a lessor priority). Settle's Bridge has had tremendous success with their walk to school day events, but it has been a challenge to have the parents and students walk consistently without the support of an Encouragement event. The focus on this Travel Plan is find means of helping both parents and students develop a culture of consistent walking and biking.

SRTS Marketing (Toole Design Group)

During December, the marketing team focused on completing key deliverables:

- Provided program oversight and management
- Staffed Resource Center telephone hotline
- Updated Resource Center web site as needed
- Created GA Safe Routes to School Resource Center Facebook Page
- Printed final Planning Guide and Workbook
- Procured Gold level partner incentives – Golden Shoe Award and Gold Level Plaques

SRTS Training (Toole Design Group)

In December, the training team completed work on Task Order 6: Pedestrian Safety Education successfully and under budget.

Evaluated and finalized Pedestrian Safety Education